

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A piston-cylinder unit comprising a cylinder ~~[having an open end and]~~, a piston rod ~~[movably inserted in said cylinder through said open end and]~~ having a ~~[distal end]~~ section projecting out of said cylinder, said ~~[distal end being insertable]~~ section having an end received through a mounting bearing for connecting the piston-cylinder unit to a support, and a bellows covering ~~[a]~~ said section of said piston rod ~~[projecting out of said cylinder]~~ for protecting said section of said piston rod against at least one of dirt and damage, wherein ~~[a]~~ an unimpeded flow connection is ~~[defined in said piston end in an area proximate said distal]~~ provided in the end of said piston rod, said flow connection ~~[being in communication]~~ communicating freely with an interior space defined in said bellows and ~~[in communication]~~ freely with the atmosphere such that said flow connection allows a free flow of air between the atmosphere and said interior space when said interior space in said bellows undergoes a change in volume in response to a relative movement between ~~[said piston and]~~ the bearing and the cylinder.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said flow connection in said ~~[free distal]~~ end of said piston rod comprises a transverse bore leading to the interior space of said bellows and a longitudinal bore proceeding from said transverse bore

and opening ~~[out at the distal end of said piston rod]~~ outside of said bearing opposite said cylinder.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The piston cylinder unit of claim 1, ~~[further comprising a mounting bearing for mounting the piston cylinder unit to a vehicle body, said distal end area]~~ wherein said end of said piston rod [being] is threadably inserted in said mounting bearing forming a screw joint, said flow connection extending through said screw joint.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The piston cylinder unit of claim 1, ~~[wherein at least one end of the bellows is mounted to said piston cylinder unit by a positive connection]~~ further comprising an upper attachment part fixed to said bearing, said upper attachment part having a circumferential groove, said bellow having a bead which engages said groove.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein ~~[at least one end of the bellows is mounted to said piston unit by a non-positive connection]~~ said upper attachment part is formed as one piece with said bearing.

Claim 6 (original): The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said piston-cylinder unit is one of a hydraulic, hydropneumatic, or pneumatic piston-cylinder unit.

Claim 7 (original): The piston cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said piston-cylinder unit is one of a vibration damper and a MacPherson strut for a motor vehicle.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (new): The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1 wherein the bellows provides the only protection for the piston rod.

Claim 10 (new): The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1 wherein the bellows is provided with a weep hole.

Claim 11 (new): The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1 wherein the cylinder comprises a lower attachment part formed with a circumferential groove, said bellows having a bead which engages said groove.

Claim 12 (new): The piston-cylinder of claim 11 wherein the bellows comprises a collar which is loaded axially against the cylinder.